

# **J.A.G. FY 2015**

## **Justice Assistance Grant**

**Submitted to:**

**Bureau of Justice Assistance  
Office of Justice Programs**

**U.S. Department of Justice**

**By:**

**West Valley City Police Department  
West Valley City, Utah**

## **PROGRAM NARRATIVE**

The West Valley City Police Department is committed to improving police services to the community. We are constantly striving to improve service to our citizens through new ideas, technology, and resource management. Our agency displays a continual drive to stay current with technology and to utilize newly available resources to the fullest extent. In order to provide the best possible services, the West Valley City Police Department must continually look at all possible options to improve upon the costs of providing services to the community as well as those available options that may save time and money; while still providing the best possible services for public safety within our community.

One method identified within our agency designed to improve services, increase officer safety, transparency, and trust between officers and citizens was to implement a body-worn camera program. At the beginning of this year our Department purchased 190 TASER-Axon Flex body-worn cameras for all of our sworn officers, with the exception of a small handful of our administrative personnel, and already we are seeing the benefits of this program. Citizens have repeatedly voiced their approval of the cameras and how they feel that they benefit everyone. Our officers have been able to capture victims' statements, suspects' confessions, and first-hand recordings of crimes in progress. Complaints against officers have decreased. Many criminal cases have been resolved before they even reach court proceedings due to the footage captured on these cameras. Our officers have reported feeling more protected in their work because their actions and words are always on film.

The cost associated with running our agency's body worn program is rather steep. Each year we will be tasked with finding \$197,748 to keep it functioning and store the footage the

cameras collect. Funding to purchase our body-worn cameras has proven difficult to acquire. However, our Department has recognized the vital role they play in our officers' day to day activities and for this reason, West Valley City officials have remained committed to outfitting each officer with one.

West Valley City's main issue is not in lack of support from City Council, the Mayor, or the citizens. Instead it is in how to continue funding this program to give both the citizens and the officers the service and protection they deserve. Funding from the FY 2015 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant would provide our agency with a means in which to pay for a large portion of the costs coming this year. Funding from within our City is simply not available at this time. West Valley City is exploring other options to help pay for the remaining balance.

Collecting and reporting the required data for this solicitation would not be an issue for the West Valley City Police Department. A meticulous accounting and reporting program has been established for each grant our agency receives. Each and every activity that takes place with grant funding is properly documented in detail. Digital copies of invoices are made and expenditures are promptly recorded. Routine internal audits are conducted to ensure accuracy. This process has made it very easy to report any and all required information to the Bureau of Justice Assistance.